when the budget estimates now before the House were prepared. If the rates are reduced at present, the result will be a loss of revenue to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs. Government cannot afford to forgo such a large sum.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—Will the Government consider this question favourably at least when the budget for the next year is considered?

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI.—I cannot say that at present.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Do the Government agree that the income they derive from courts of law is much more than the expenditure they have to incur on their account?

Mr. H. V. RAMASVAMI.—The figures relating to expenditure on courts are not before me just now. I want notice.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—If the Government find that the revenue is more than the expenditure, will they consider the question of reducing the rates to a corresponding extent?

Mr. H. V. RAMASVAMI.—Government cannot accept that principle.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Do the Government think then that there are administrations which derive a profit from the administration of justice?

Mr. H. V. RAMASVAMI.—The rates are fixed with reference to certain principles. If as a result of those rates, Government derive some extra revenue, why should they forgo it? There is nothing immoral about it.

Recovery of Initial Deposits for Housing Installations.

Q.—19. **Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA, Bowringpet Municipality.**—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) when were orders passed prescribing certain deposits to be made before supplying electric energy to houses, factories and pumps, etc.;

(*b*) the amount so far deposited since the date of passing these orders;

(*c*) whether any interest is being paid to the depositors on such amount;

(*d*) when the amount would be returned to the depositors;

(*e*) whether any time limit is prescribed for returning such deposits;

(*f*) if not, the method adopted for returning such deposits?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar).**—

(*a*) From the inception of the power supply scheme, the recovery of the two months' minimum deposits has been prescribed in the case of house lighting. This compliance is insisted upon from the owners of lighting installations also since March 1934.

A deposit of Rs. 40 or two months' minimum deposit, calculated on the basis of a 50 per cent load factor, is required of those power installation consumers rated at 10 H. P. or less only. Installations above 10 H. P are exempted from this deposit.

The owners of irrigation pumps are required to deposit one year's revenue at 5 per cent on the estimated capital cost if the capital investment exceeds rupees one thousand, and six months' revenue at the same percentage in other cases with effect from 1st July 1936.

(*b*) The total amount of deposits received up-to-date from consumers of house lighting power installations and irrigation pumps amount to Rs. 1,51,992-6-9 at the end of April 1938.

(*c*) No interest is being paid on account of these deposits as the great majority of them are very small, ranging from Re. 3-6-0 to Rs. 20 or Rs. 25.

(*d*) The deposits are returned to the depositors immediately they cease to take power and on receipt of application after adjusting all amounts due from them on account of their consumptions.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Please *see* answer to (*d*) above.

Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA.—Government say that the system of insisting on the recovery of two months' minimum charges as initial deposit has been long in existence. Are the Government sure that there are no exceptions to this rule?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—Not that I am aware of.

Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA.—If such cases are brought to notice, will the Government show similar concessions in other cases also?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—It is not possible to agree to a general statement like that.

Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA.—It is stated that installations above 10 H. P. are exempted from depositing 2 months' charges. Has this been done as a matter of concession?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—Yes; because, consumers of power in such cases offer substantial securities.

Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA.—With reference to answer to (*d*), is there any reason to think that consumers of power would make up their mind to do without power?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—It is left to them to decide whether they should continue to take power or not.

Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA.—What objections can the Government have to supplying power without insisting on deposits at least in the case of house connections?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—It is not all houses that are occupied always by the owners. If a tenant vacates the house without settling the lighting charges, the department has found from experience that it will be very difficult to recover the dues.

Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA.—In view of two months' charges being always in deposit with the department, what justification can it have in disconnecting the installation, the moment the monthly charges are not paid on the due date? And similarly, what is the justification to charge re-connection charges even when the arrears are cleared?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—Deposits are taken as security. If lights are not disconnected, prompt collection of revenue becomes impossible. The charges levied in Mysore for re-connection are very much less than those obtaining in other parts of India.

Mr. K. RAMASESHA SASTRY.—There is no reason to justify the system of charging a re-connection fee when the department has sufficient deposit from the consumers. Either it should return the deposit amount or cease charging the re-connection fee.

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—It cannot be done. Rules all over India are the same with regard to disconnection and re-connection.

Mr. A. HANUMANTHARAYAPPA.—Are the Goverument aware that, even though the necessary deposits have been made by intending consumers of power in Avati, there has been inordinate delay in giving the lighting installation?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—The case will be enquired into.

Mr. D. VENKATARAMANAPPA.—It may be that in some cases tenants vacate the houses without paying the dues to the department, but even in such cases, the house-owners will have to pay them to the department, lest the houses should continue to be vacant for want of light connection and the house-owners will be put to loss. So whether the tenant pays or the house-owner, the department has no risk of losing the revenue. In this view why should they not give up the system of disconnecting the power the moment the bills are not paid on the due dates and charging a fee for re-connection?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—The Electrical Department being a commercial concern, the recovery of dues becomes otherwise difficult.

Mr. H. K. MADIAH.—In the case of power installations for irrigation, is the 5 per cent limit not too high?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—After all, this is a commercial concern. We cannot go on reducing the rates indefinitely. They are already low enough. The present 5 per cent limit hardly provides for 1 per cent interest charges after allowing for depreciation and establishment. It is already sufficiently low and is not susceptible of further reduction.

Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Will the Government agree that one rupee is too heavy a charge for re-connection? What is the expenditure which the department actually incurs on this account?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—Hands have been engaged specially for this work. To meet their salaries, etc., this charge is considered quite necessary.

Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Am I to take it then that all the revenue derived by the department in the shape of re-connection fees are being utilized for paying the establishment meant for this work and that there is no surplus under this head?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—The question of reducing the re-connection charges will be considered. if possible.

Grant of Responsible Government to Mysore.

Q.—20. **Mr. B. SRINIVASA RAO,** Bowringpet Taluk.—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

on how many occasions the question regarding the grant of Responsible Government to the people of Mysore State was discussed, both in the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, since the year 1923?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. C. Subrahmanya Aiyar).**—

This was not discussed on any occasion.

Railway Cess Collections in the Tumkur District.

Q.—22. **Messrs. BALE GOWDA** and **REVANNA GOWDA,** Kunigal Taluk.—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the total sum of railway cess collected in the Tumkur District and under deposit till now;

(*b*) the amount of interest realized thereon each year;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the fact that a portion of this interest is being utilized for the formation of only new road works;

(*d*) whether it has been brought to their notice that the raiyats are hard hit in these days of economic depression by the collection of this tax?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. P. H. Krishna Rao).**—

(*a*) Rs. 11,28,856 on 1st July 1937.

(*b*) Rs. 53,080.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Mr. BALE GOWDA.—Are the Government aware that some important roads have been constructed with the help of the railway cess collections in the Tumkur District? If so, will there be any objection to giving sufficient grants for maintaining those roads from the interest amount on the railway cess collections?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That question is already engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY.—In the case of necessary works, why not the Government empower the district boards themselves to utilize some of the cess income on their own initiative?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That question is under consideration.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY.—Many of the district boards will be unable to maintain the roads if they are not permitted to utilize the interest on railway cess income for that purpose. Are not the Government aware of it?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—Yes, and that is why a special committee has been appointed to suggest ways and means for augmenting the resources of the local bodies. Their recommendations are awaited by Government.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY.—Why not the Government take over the management of all important roads in the State and see that they are maintained properly?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That question is also under the consideration of the special committee.

Mr. KRISHNA RAO GANESHA RAO GURUJAR.—In all the districts, Government are still levying the railway cess. Does it mean that the Government are still thinking of further railway developments in all those places?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—It is not true either that the cess is being levied in all the districts or that the question of railway expansion in each district is under consideration.

Mr. KRISHNA RAO GANESHA RAO GURUJAR.—Speaking of the Kadur District, may I know if the Government are contemplating any railway expansion?